U.S. Application No. 09/671,431 Preliminary Amendment

Docket No. P24,368 USA

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested.

The present amendment does not require the payment of additional claim fees inasmuch as the total number of claims does not exceed 20 and the number of independent claims does not exceed 3. The filing fee should be based on the claims as amended herein.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: <u>August 9, 2004</u>

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